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COUNTRY Austria REPORT NO. [REDACTED]  
 TOPIC Communist Association of Small Landowners  
 25X1X 25X1A  
 EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]  
 DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1A  
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1. At a meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria in early May 1950, the newly drafted program of the Association of Small Landowners was read and unanimously accepted. The draft of the program is as follows:

"The Association of Small Landowners is an organization of small farmers which by demanding tax rates in proportion to real income and abolition of the excessive wine taxes imposed upon the small wine-growers, fights for a reform of the unjust tax system. It demands:

- a. Fair prices for agricultural products at expense of the large producers and the excessive profits of the middlemen.
- b. Supplying of small farmers with forage, fertilizers and machinery on favorable terms.
- c. Abolition of the German leasehold system and protection of small leaseholders by reforming the rent system and including a stipulation making the rented land the property of the leaseholder after a term of 10 years. Privileged treatment in the granting of reconstruction loans and subsidies.
- d. Electrification of villages carried out by the federal and provincial governments.
- e. State loans free of interest for small farmers.
- f. Confiscation of large estates over 100 hectares."

2. Landesrat Laurenz Genner, chairman of the Communist Farmers'

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2

Committee, was appointed by the Central Committee to the leadership of the "Association of Small Landowners." The Central Committee allocated a sum of 25,000 shillings for the organization of the association. The Association of Small Landowners will extend over all of Austria. The designated party functionaries are not yet known. The program of the association is to be submitted to the public at a conference to be held in early June. At this conference the leading functionaries are to be elected. \*

25X1A \* ~~Comment~~. No other information is presently available concerning this program.

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